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DE RUEHPU #1350 2671626
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8887
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 2063
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0235
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1836
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2419
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0325
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 1259
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 001350

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR, DRL, S/CRS, INR/IAA
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
TREASURY FOR MAUREEN WAFER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/22/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL HA

SUBJECT: HAITI AND EXPULSION OF U.S. AMBASSADORS FROM
BOLIVIA, VENEZUELA

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 99473

Classified By: Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson. Reason: E.O. 12958 1.4
(b), (d)

¶1. (C) Ambassador Sanderson raised reftel points with Foreign Minister Alrich Richard in her introductory courtesy call on the newly-appointed minister September 18. Alrich said he was very surprised by the two expulsions. He hoped, however, that the U.S. would not make Haiti's assistance and commercial relationship with Venezuela an issue because of this.

¶2. (C) Additionally, PolCouns made reftel points to Presidential Chief of Staff Fritz Longchamp September 18. Longchamp called the expulsions "unprecedented." He took on board reftel points that the U.S. has deliberately avoided ratcheting up negative rhetoric with Venezuela, despite that country's history of provocative behavior toward the U.S.

¶3. (C) Comment: While GOH officials appeared surprised by the expulsions of the two U.S. Ambassadors, the Foreign Minister's comments confirm Embassy's belief that this will not/not lead the GOH to curtail its assistance and energy relationship with Venezuela.
SANDERSON